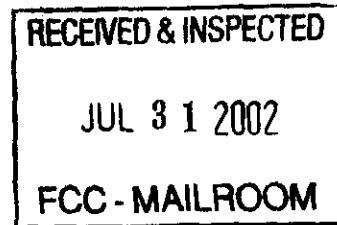


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Mr. Brad Owen
Lieutenant Governor
Office of the Lieutenant Governor
304 Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

March 17, 2002

WC DOCKET NO. 02-189

Dear Mr. Owen:

Everybody is adversely affected by our state's high long distance rates — but we seniors are more damaged by it than most.

After all, most seniors must generally make do on fixed budgets. We can't afford to waste money. And that's what these high long distance rates amount to — pure waste.

What else would you call the loss of tens of millions of dollars each year by consumers in our state but waste? Seniors in other states don't have to put up with this. In places like New York and Texas, where they recently introduced competition in long distance service, seniors don't have to worry about throwing away their money like this. Why should seniors in our state?

If this state were to allow competitors to enter the long distance market — Qwest has already stated a willingness to jump in — then we'd enjoy lower rates in short order. And we would also finally get to take advantage of the other benefits that phone competition inevitably brings, like better service and more choices in technology.

And there's one other way that seniors would benefit. We'd be able to spend more time on the phone talking to our loved ones outside the state.

Please exercise your influence to help seniors in our state. I ask you to do everything you can to bring competition to long distance.

Sincerely,

T C Barry
PO Box 794
Port Townsend, WA 98368

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "T C Barry".